



ELA Virtual Learning

**AP Lang and Comp:
Synthesis Essay**

April 13, 2020



AP Lang and Comp

Lesson: **April 13, 2020 (1 of 5)**

Objective/Learning Target:

1. Apply close, critical reading strategies of complex non-fiction text in order to analyze and synthesize the information in order to evaluate its purpose, identify any bias and determine its validity.
2. To produce well-organized arguments using textual evidence from complex non-fiction texts while supporting a clear, concise claim.

Background Information:

A synthesis is a written discussion incorporating support from several sources of differing views. This type of assignment requires that you examine a variety of sources and identify their relationship to your thesis. This is one essay of the three on the AP Lang exam.

Before you begin...

As you read each source included in this prompt, look for the points listed below:

- **Each source's stance on the topic**
- **The main idea of each source**
- **Concessions, objections, and rebuttals (when applicable)**
- **Types of evidence (anecdotal, historical, analogies, current events, etc.)**

Warm Up Activity:

Answer the following question about the Synthesis Essay on a separate sheet of paper:

Why is synthesizing multiple sources an important skill to practice?

As you answer the question above, consider the following:

- the definition of the word synthesize
- the purpose and benefits of synthesizing

Warm Up Activity Follow-up:

Why is synthesizing multiple sources an important skill to practice?

It helps readers see where sources overlap, see where differences of opinion matter, and see how an argument can be developed through the analysis of various evidence.

Lesson:

- Read through the prompt and the sources provided. There are a total of six sources.
- While reading, annotate key points in the sources. Write a brief sentence at the end of each source or on notebook paper that summarizes what you have read. For more realistic practice, give yourself only 15 minutes to read through, annotate, and write your sentence total for the sources.
- Click [here](#) to read the text.

Self-Assessment Checklist:

- Did you annotate each source?
- Did you identify each source's basic position (pro, con, neutral)?
- Did you identify the main argument in each source?
- Did you identify similarities and differences among the sources? For example, do multiple sources use similar examples?
- Did you write a one-sentence summary of each source?

Video Support:

- The following video link is a great tool on how to annotate. Check it out and see how it compares to your techniques.

[How to Annotate](#)

Further Practice:

- The following link is a PDF version of the 2005 Synthesis Essay Prompt. For further practice, read the prompt and annotate the sources while providing a one sentence summary at the end of each one. Either print out the prompt or copy it from the link at the top of your paper. Make sure that you label each source A, B, C, etc.

[2005 Synthesis](#)